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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/955,115	09/19/2001	Koji Mishima	2001_1323A	9616

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EXAMINER

WONG, EDNA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1753

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2003

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding..

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/955,115

Applicant(s)

MISHIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Edna Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the front cover with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). 4
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims **1-6**, drawn to a plating method, classified in class 205, subclass 98.
- II. Claims **7-11**, drawn to a plating apparatus, classified in class 204, subclass 275.1.
- III. Claims **12-15**, drawn to a plating apparatus, classified in class 204, subclass 212.
- IV. Claim **16**, drawn to a plating apparatus, classified in class 204, subclass 242.
- V. Claim **17**, drawn to a plating apparatus, classified in class 204, subclass 242.
- VI. Claims **18-21**, drawn to a plating method, classified in class 205, subclass 143.
- VII. Claim **22**, drawn to a plating method, classified in class 205, subclass 80.
- VIII. Claim **23**, drawn to a plating method, classified in class 205, subclass 80.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I, VI, VII, VIII and II, III, IV, V are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process.

(MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process such as electrolytic etching.

Inventions I, VI, VII and VIII are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects.

Group I is directed to a method requiring the step of changing the concentration of the additive in the plating liquid filled into said plating space during a plating process.

Group VI is directed to a method requiring the step of moving a portion of the substrate facing said anode in such a state that an inner central portion of the surface of the substrate faces said anode for a longer time than an outer peripheral portion of the surface of the substrate faces said anode.

Group VII is directed to a method requiring wherein the distance between said anode and an inner central portion of the substrate is smaller than the distance between said anode and an outer peripheral portion of the substrate.

Group VIII is directed to a method requiring the step of changing the distance between the substrate and said anode after initiation of plating.

The methods recited above contain steps that are methodically different from each other and are not required for each of the Groups. Thus, the inventions have

different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects.

Inventions II, III, IV and V are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects.

Group II is directed to an apparatus requiring a plating liquid introducing device.

Group III is directed to an apparatus requiring a moving device.

Group IV is directed to an apparatus requiring wherein the distance between said anode and an inner central portion of the substrate is smaller than the distance between said anode and an outer peripheral portion of the substrate.

Group VI is directed to an apparatus requiring a distance changing device.

The apparatuses recited above contain elements that are structurally different from each other and are not required for each of the Groups. Thus, the inventions have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have

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acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

A telephone call was made to Michael S. Huppert on March 10, 2003 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

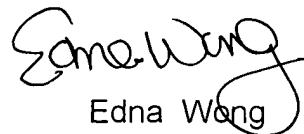
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edna Wong whose telephone number is (703) 308-3818. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, alt. Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

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supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (703) 308-3322. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 873-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1495.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edna Wong", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edna Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1753

EW
March 10, 2003